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Association of Bay Area Governments, San
Francisco Bay Area.

Highlights of 1976 and selected
summary of accomplishments, 1970-1975.
Berkeley, Feb. 1977.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 1976
AND
SELECTED SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1970-1975

The Association last year:

- Formed a 43-member Environmental Management Task Force to prepare a plan to meet Federal clean air and water standards for submittal by the State to the Environmental Protection Agency by June 21, 1978.
- Began with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission its second corridor study--in Santa Clara County. The study will examine transportation and development alternatives for the county and how they would affect highways, transit and related urban development projects for water, jobs and housing in the next few years.
- Reviewed the revised City of Livermore general plan, building on the recommendations of the 1974 action on the proposed Las Positas new town in Alameda County.
- Received a \$1 million grant for emergency medical services, with most of the funds provided to the counties for completion of a basic life support system. This means that an ambulance can reach a victim within 10 minutes in the urban part of the Bay Area.
- Approved a sharing plan for Federal housing subsidies, which will be used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to distribute available funds.
- Established a computer link with the Department of Agriculture's Federal Domestic Assistance Program Retrieval System, which helps local governments find Federal funds for community programs.
- Received an award for innovative community affairs programs from the San Francisco Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for its Citizen Alliance Program.
- Received the highest number of members in its 15-year history when the Colma Town Council vote to become the 87th city member.
- Reviewed 1,542 projects totalling more than \$1.2 billion and \$854 million in Federal grant requests.

1975

- adopted the Regional Housing Element - Phase I, necessary for bringing HUD community development funds to local governments.
- refined the Open Space Element--now called the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This work strengthens the ability of local governments to make decisions about environmentally sensitive lands.
- reviewed the proposed Las Positas new town in Alameda County, and concluded that the proposal was premature and in conflict with regional policies on environmental quality, balanced urban development and cooperative government action. The Executive Board also said that developments such as that proposed for Las Positas should occur in central parts of the region with existing--but unused--public service capacities.
- began a project to develop county-level management and regional coordination of emergency medical services such as ambulances, hospitals and public safety agencies.
- completed the major portion of a land capability study that will enable Bay Area jurisdictions to use geologic publications more effectively. The study developed a method to assess and reduce expected dollar costs of earth science phenomena such as earthquakes, flooding, slope stability and resource depletion.
- acted to automate its A-95 project review notification system, because of the number of programs now requiring ABAG review. During 1975, ABAG reviewed 1,019 grant applications totalling more than \$748 million and \$555 million in Federal funds.
- continued its extensive joint program with MTC, without which the Bay Area could not receive its substantial funds for transportation projects.
- accepted a \$4.3 million EPA grant for planning under s. 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. The program will bring together the separate and often conflicting mandates of single-purpose regional agencies in air, water and solid waste.

1974

- sponsored major conferences on State planning law, the Williamson Act and ways to provide the region with energy-efficient communities.
- Examined potential sources of financial and acquisition plans for open space. In Financing Open Space, ABAG analyzed frequently overlooked costs of operation and maintenance of open space lands, and prepared a five year financial program.
- established a major research study in Sonoma County financed by the Environmental Protection Agency to demonstrate ways to link land use with air and water quality planning.
- broadened its review of development trends with procedures to assess development proposals with a potentially significant impact on the region. The reviews are in addition to ABAG's review under the A-95 Circular.
- established a review process for the Regional Housing Element - Phase I, a major tool in implementing the 1974 Federal legislation. The element calls for a "fair share" system of distributing housing subsidy monies.

1973

- devised a pilot Bay Delta project to use composted organic wastes to restore agricultural levees in the Delta. The project later received support of State Legislature, but was delayed by State and Federal agencies.
- argued in a three-volume report on implementing open space plans that local cities and counties have more powers to control growth, curb urban sprawl and regulate land than is generally thought.
- approved the Regional Ocean Coastline Plan, making the Bay Area the first region in California to adopt a coastal plan as part of its comprehensive general plan. The plan was used as a base for planning in Marin, Sonoma and San Francisco Counties by the North Central Coastal Commission. Through ABAG's relationships with both Bay Area coastal commissions, local governments have had a positive impact on coastal planning--unlike some areas of the State where coastal commissions have not enjoyed good relationships with local governments. ABAG's appointments to the two coastal commissions gave inland jurisdictions a major voice in coastal planning.
- helped set up regional car-pool program, called RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, to meet the energy crisis.

1972

- completed a report on New Communities in the Bay Area, and recommended that ABAG study and make recommendations on the problems and opportunities of 33 developing communities in the Bay Area.
- approved a housing planning process and appointed a housing task force to prepare a regional housing element. The element devised was one of the first in the country to contain policies for increasing housing availability for low- and moderate-income persons as mandated by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
- adopted an open space element for the boldest open space system planned for any metropolitan area in the world. A target of 3.4 million acres of open space was established.
- approved an urban growth guide of 5.5 million persons by 1980.
- adopted the Regional Airport Systems Plan, making the region the first in California to have an aviation element as part of its regional plan. The plan is being implemented by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and ABAG.

1971

- produced the Development Regulations and Housing Costs study, which analyzed the impact of local zoning ordinances on housing. The study recommended stronger development regulations, building codes and improved housing elements for local general plans. Improved code enforcement and the creation of professional standards for building code officials and license candidates were also recommended, as was a program of Federal research on innovative building technology.
- supported five fringe parking demonstration projects, arguing that the use of highway funds for parking in areas served by public transit would reduce auto congestion in downtown areas.
- asked local, regional, State and Federal agencies to cooperate in the development of regulations for ship movements in San Francisco Bay. The Regional Organization for Shipping and the Environment prepared a report on requirements for ship safety and vessel traffic regulation following a collision and oil spill in the Bay. A system was later established by Federal law.

1971 (Continued)

- recommended that the U. S. Coast Guard find the environmental impact report for the Southern Crossing bridge not adequate. Voters later opposed the bridge's construction.

1970

- completed the Regional Plan 1970-1990, the Bay Area's first comprehensive regional plan. Local government officials overwhelmingly approved of the plan's policies for city-centered development in the region. Other goals: protection and enhancement of San Francisco Bay, adequate shelter for the Bay Area's citizens, expanded opportunity for economic well-being, a transportation system that is integrated with land use and consistent with the city-centered concept, a permanent regional open space system, and a sense of regional identity, responsibility and cooperation among citizens, organizations and governments in the Bay Area.
- produced the Ocean Coastline Study, one of the first detailed studies of its kind in the country. The study pointed out the need for a coastline plan, since 50 percent of the region's coastal land was potentially developable. The study recommended that coastal planning and management be carried out on a regional basis.
- finished the first phase of a Regional Water, Sewerage and Drainage Plan. The plan advocated integrated water supply, waste water treatment and flood water management.
- completed the first phase of a two-part Regional Airports System Study. This phase involved data collection on forecasts of demand for air travel, inventory of aviation facilities, airport and airspace capacity, and airport access.

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